

Voting Rights Advocates Speaking in KC, Tuesday

LWV KCJCP and its partners in the KC Area Coalition for Voter Protection received a request from the Democracy Initiative to rally a response to the Pence Kobach's meeting of the Election Integrity Commission in New Hampshire on Sep 12. The need is to stand firm against unwarranted actions of the Commission to interfere with New Hampshire's election system, as well as to protest the Commission's continuing to pursue unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud. The Coalition appealed to other concerned organizations to join in conducting a press conference. The result is described in the press release below.

Kansas City, Missouri - September 6, 2017 - Starting at noon on Tuesday, Sept 12, voting rights advocates from Kansas and Missouri will meet at the north end of Illus Davis Park to lift up a vision of inclusive democracy as counterpoint to a meeting taking place in New Hampshire.

"The best way to uphold the integrity our elections is by making sure every eligible voter can vote and that their vote is counted as cast," said one of the organizers, Evelyn Maddox, "not by pursuing allegations of voter fraud where none exists."

Maddox is co-president of League of Women Voters of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties. She says many of these groups want to send a message to the "Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity" that the American people will not be intimidated out of exercising their right to vote, nor permit the use of voter data as pretext for purging voter rolls.

With the U.S. Courthouse as a backdrop, speakers will share their current and planned actions regarding the "Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity." Established by executive order in May, with Vice President Mike Pence as chair and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach as vice chair, the Commission will search for "fraudulent voter registrations and fraudulent voting." Its second meeting is Tuesday.

In contrast, the voting rights advocates gathering on Tuesday are more concerned by increased voter intimidation and suppression efforts. Of particular concern are inflexible voter ID laws, reduced polling sites and inadequate poll worker training, requests for voter file data, and the potential of federal interference in state election laws. Kansans, in particular, are encumbered by the registration requirement of documentary proof of citizenship championed by Secretary Kobach and others on the Commission.

Participants in this event include representatives from Communities Creating Opportunity (CCO); Heartland Alliance for Progress; Hope, Resistance & Renewal; League of Women Voters of Johnson County, Kansas; League of Women Voters of Kansas; League of Women Voters of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties; MORE2; NAACP Kansas City, MO Branch; Progressive Social Network; and What U Can Do. Several of these organizations have aligned under the name Greater KC Coalition to Protect the Vote, drawn together by Dr. Robert Lee Hill.

At 12 p.m., Evelyn Maddox, co-president of LWV of KCJCP will convene the event and introduce speakers, including the Reverend Susan McCann, President of Communities Creating Opportunity (CCO); Sara Baker of ACLU of Missouri; and the Rev. Rodney E. Williams, president of the Kansas City branch of the NAACP. Cille King, co-president of LWV of Kansas, who is quoted in the Kansas Advisory Committee report to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, will talk about the impact of [the S.A.F.E. Act](#) on citizen participation.